

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A decoy nucleic acid, which can inhibit promoter activity by binding to the transcription factor of the Synoviolin gene promoter.

2. (Currently amended) A decoy nucleic acid selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of [[a]] the nucleic acid sequence as shown in of SEQ ID NO: 11 or 12; or

(b) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of [[a]] the nucleic acid sequence as shown in of SEQ ID No: 11 or 12 having deletion, substitution or addition of one or several nucleic acids, and has a function of inhibiting Synoviolin gene promoter activity.

3. (Currently amended) A decoy nucleic acid selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of [[a]] the nucleic acid sequence as shown in sequences of SEQ ID NO: 11 and 12; or

(b) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of [[a]] the nucleic acid sequence as shown in sequences of SEQ ID No: 11 and 12 having deletion, substitution or addition of one or several nucleic acids, and has a function of inhibiting Synoviolin gene promoter activity.

4. (Original) The nucleic acid according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the function of inhibiting the Synoviolin gene promoter activity is a function of binding with a transcription factor of the Synoviolin gene promoter.

5. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[4]] 3, which is designed based on a nucleotide sequence at the transcription factor binding site selected from a group consisting of EBS, SBS and ABS.

6. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[5]] 3, which is able to induce apoptosis in a synovial cell or a cancer cell.

7. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing comprising~~ the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[6]] 3 ~~for treating and preventing diseases attributed to the expression of the Synoviolin gene.~~

8. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, further ~~containing comprising~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the transcription activity of the Synoviolin transcription factor in a cell, comprising using transfecting the cell with the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[6]] 3.

11. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the Synoviolin promoter activity in a cell, comprising using transfecting the cell with the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[6]] 3.

12. (Currently amended) A method of suppressing the expression of Synoviolin, comprising [[by]] inhibiting the Synoviolin promoter activity using the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[6]] 3.

13. (Currently amended) A method of inducing apoptosis in a synovial cell or a cancer cell, comprising using transfecting the cell with the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to [[6]] 3.

14. (New) A method of treating or preventing a disease attributed to the expression of the Synoviolin gene, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 7.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the disease is at least one selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, fibrosis, cancers, and cerebral and neural diseases.